

■ *Sun Yat-sen Culture and Classical Texts Seminar*

The National Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall, Center for Chinese Studies, School of Humanities and Arts at Taipei Municipal University of Education, Graduate Institute of Classical Texts at National Taipei University, and School of Arts and Social Sciences at Soochow University jointly held the "Sun Yat-sen Culture and Classical Texts Seminar" on April 27-28, 2007, at the Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall. Dr. Liu Chao-you of the Chinese Culture University presented a keynote speech on "A Century of Library Document Compilation: Retrospective and Outlook." Other topics addressed by the seminar included: A study of the Wen Su Pavilion Version of the Complete Collection in Four Treasuries; The Position of Japanese Block Prints in the Study of Editions; Marketing Strategies of the Block Print Industry in the Song Period; Chinese-Vietnamese writer Phan B?i Chau and His Works; 2006 Survey Study of the Status of Education in Sun Yat-sen Thought in Taiwan Elementary and Middle Schools; Sociopolitical Change and Classical Annotations: A Case Study of Sun Yat-sen Studies; Status and Development Trends of Sun Yat-sen Studies in Academic Journals in Taiwan; Research of Academic Literature on Sun Yat-sen: Junctures and Turning Points; Editing of the "Catalog of Sun Yat-sen Studies Research Works" and Approaches and Academic Value of the Establishment of the "Table of Contents Image Search System"; Philological Literary Value of the Diary of Hu Pu-an; Relation between Compilation and Research in Classical Studies; Review of Philology Monographs Over the Past Decade; and Development Trends in Chinese Philology.



Director Keng Li-chun (right) of the Center for Chinese Studies speaks on behalf of NCL Director General Wang Wen-lu at the seminar. (Photo provided by Soochow University)

■ *2008 Research Grant Applications to Assist Foreign Scholars in Chinese Studies*

The Center for Chinese Studies is currently accepting applications for research grants in 2008. This grant is specifically designed to assist foreign scholars in conducting research work in Taiwan, the Republic of China. Assistance provided by the CCS includes a monthly stipend, assistance with research materials, liaison with scholars and institutions in Taiwan, use of CCS facilities, and a direct round-trip economy-class ticket. Research tenure is from three months to one year.

The grant is designed for foreign professors (assistant, associate or full), as well as doctoral candidates or researchers in the field of Chinese studies at foreign universities or academic institutes. Research projects should be within the field of Chinese or Taiwanese studies. All application materials should be posted (electronically or by airmail) no later than May 31st, 2007. The selection

process will begin around the middle of July. We will then notify all applicants of the Selection Committee's decisions no later than the end-August.

The grant will provide:

1. A direct round-trip ticket between the domicile of grant recipients and Taipei
2. monthly grants are awarded according to the following scale :
 - ⊙ Full Professor NT\$60,000
 - ⊙ Associate Professor NT\$50,000
 - ⊙ Assistant Professor NT\$40,000
 - ⊙ Doctoral Candidate NT\$30,000
3. Accidental death and disability insurance of NT \$1million (and medical insurance for up to NT\$50,000 in the case of an injury) will be provided for the grant tenure.

Applicants should submit the following materials:

- 1) Application form
- 2) Curriculum vitae (including a list of publications)
- 3) Research plan
- 4) At least one letter of recommendation

For more details, please contact us at: Liaison Division, Center for Chinese Studies, 20 Chungshan South Road, Taipei, Taiwan 10001, R.O.C.

Tel: 886-2-2314-7321

Fax: 886-2-2371-2126

E-mail: ccsgrant@msg.ncl.edu.tw

Online Application Website: <http://ccs.ncl.edu.tw>

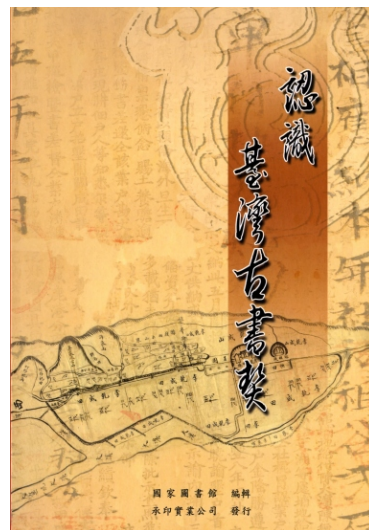
Review

■ *Understanding Taiwan's Historical Contracts*

The NCL published a two-volume book entitled *Historical Contracts in Taiwan* in February 2007. Compiled by the NCL Special Collection Division

and edited by Dr. Wen Chen-hua of the Graduate Institute of Taiwan History at National Taiwan Normal University, the book introduces historical contracts in Taiwan with the first volume providing an overview and the second volume presenting illustrative examples. A total of 82 contracts are covered, including official and private documents. The official contracts are issued by government agencies and encompass official letters, instructions, survey slips, and receipt of tax payment. The private documents include contracts for transactions, land transfers, loans, pawned items, land parceling, additional payment and adoption contracts.

Private contracts were frequently used in Han Chinese societies during the Ming and Qing periods, and they remained in use in Taiwan through the early part of the Japanese occupation era. They provide an invaluable resource for understanding daily life in earlier times, as well as historical, social and economic developments in Taiwan.



Front cover of *Historical Contracts in Taiwan*